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ABSTRACT

A Federal Higher Education Act (HEA) Title II-C grant was awarded in 1987/1988 to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library to acquire, catalog, and make accessible through interlibrary loan the historical curriculum materials that chronicle the educational history of the United States from the 1800s to the present. In addition to an uncataloged collection of approximately 8,000 volumes of elementary and secondary classroom textbooks and curriculum guides, another estimated 4,000 volumes were available in faculty offices and collections. The project also gathered 9,000 volumes from donations by individuals and institutions, and purchased 3,000 volumes. Through extensive publicity, the project became widely known and researchers from across the nation began utilizing the collection or expressing interest in depositing copies of historical texts in the collection. The project confirmed the need for a national network of regional repositories of historical curriculum collections. In addition to the enthusiastic reception by researchers, the project identified the concerns of individuals having treasured collections of textbooks passed on as family keepsakes, but no longer having the space or ability to preserve these materials. In many instances, such private collections are the only remaining sources of these materials that were generally discarded upon the receipt of new editions. This report summarizes key aspects of the project. (Author/SD)

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STRENGTHENING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY CURRICULUM
AND TEXTBOOK RESOURCES AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCE LIBRARY
TO IMPROVE NATIONAL ACCESS

FINAL REPORT
OCTOBER 1987 - DECEMBER 1988

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH LIBRARY RESOURCES PROGRAM
(HEA II-C)
G00-87-45447

PROJECT DIRECTOR: NANCY PATRICIA O'BRIEN

March 1989

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STRENGTHENING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOK RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) project to strengthen elementary and secondary curriculum and textbook resources was to acquire and catalog the historical resources of curriculum materials from the 19th century to the present and make these materials available to the entire nation through interlibrary loan. These materials chronicle the changes in educational policies and practices in the United States.

In a recent survey of collections of historical curriculum materials in the United States, only four large collections other than the one at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign were identified. While many smaller regional collections were identified in the survey undertaken by the Curriculum Materials Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries, only five had significant holdings: UIUC; Harvard; Teachers College at Columbia University; University of Pittsburgh; and, the Center for Research Libraries. Of these institutions, Teachers College has a partial listing in RLIN, an automated, bibliographic utility, and UIUC and the University of Pittsburgh are currently entering records into OCLC, another bibliographic utility. Teacher's College has about 29,000 volumes; the University of Pittsburgh has about 14,000 volumes; the Center for Research Libraries has 85,000 volumes of uncataloged materials; and, Harvard has 35,000 volumes. Harvard contacted UIUC regarding the possibility of undertaking a project similar to the UIUC "model" curriculum cataloging project. The total number of UIUC uncataloged curriculum volumes was estimated at 12,000 at the beginning of the project. As of June 30, 1987 there were 6,021 cataloged volumes of current materials in the UIUC collection.

CATALOGING

STAFF

The grant application, as amended to reflect budget reductions, proposed to catalog 8,000 volumes of historical curriculum materials. One full-time cataloger and two half-time graduate assistants were hired to catalog these materials. One full-time clerk typist was hired to input the cataloging data into OCLC and to type reports and publicity announcements. During the course of the project, OCLC agreed to waive charges for "first time use" records and, with the approval of the U.S. Department of Education, the allocation for these contractual charges was changed to the budget line designated for staff. A full-time cataloger was hired from June 21-December 31, 1988. Student assistants were also hired as needed to perform sorting and labeling activities.

EQUIPMENT

Computer equipment was ordered immediately. Unfortunately, the OCLC equipment was delayed due to production difficulties and was not installed until late February 1988. This delay significantly decreased the amount of inputting into the OCLC database by the project staff. As the chart below indicates, a large number of entries were input by project staff during the 10 months that the OCLC equipment was available to the staff. An arrangement was made with the UIUC Automated Systems Staff after the end of the project to input OCLC data for project materials that had been cataloged but not input. This arrangement made it possible for an additional 2,228 volumes to be added to the collection that might otherwise have been left with extensive work completed but not the final entry into national and local databases. The 2,228 volumes were sent to UIUC Automated Systems from January through March 1989 and in effect offset the lack of OCLC equipment available during the initial months of the project.

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CATALOGING STATISTICS*

INPUT BY TITLE II-C STAFF

MONTH 1988	ORIGINAL TITLES	OCLC TITLES	VOLUMES	ADDED VOLUMES
February	7	5	16	
March	26	134	417	
April	92	162	404	
May	90	115	479	29
June	95	160	631	19
July	104	197	510	27
August	69	220	666	109
September	68	196	995	98
October	103	177	719	173
November	115	151	766	151
December	107	128	769	213
TOTALS	876	1645	6372	819

INPUT BY UIUC AUTOMATED SYSTEMS STAFF

January- March 1989	229	818	2228	107
COMBINED TOTALS	1105	2463	8600	926

VOLUMES CATALOGED (8,600) + VOLUMES ADDED (926) TO PREVIOUSLY
CATALOGED TITLES = 9,526

*Original titles are new entries to the OCLC database; new entries were also added to the RLIN database through a cooperative arrangement. OCLC titles are records found in the OCLC database that were modified to match UIUC holdings.

ACQUISITIONS

The budget allocated for purchase of library materials and reimbursement for shipment of gift materials was \$22,000. It was estimated that approximately \$2,000 would be required to reimburse institutions for shipment of gift collections of historical curriculum materials. With few exceptions, most institutions did not request reimbursement for shipping. Following is a list of some of the major gift collections shipped to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for inclusion in its Curriculum Collection. Figures reflect number of volumes.

Boston University	150
Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois	3,000
Illinois State University	4,000
Miscellaneous Private & Faculty Donors	591
Rutgers University	60
San Diego State University	23
State University of New York College at Cortland	1,100
TOTAL GIFT DONATIONS	8,924

In addition to the donations listed above, several inquiries regarding donation of private collections have been received in the past few months and arrangements are being made to accept some of these collections. Private donations usually date from the mid 1800s to the present. Donations from institutions usually date from the 1880s to the present.

Approximately 3,000 volumes were purchased utilizing the allocation for library materials. This is an average cost of \$7.33 per volume. This relatively inexpensive amount is due to the second hand purchase of many books and the fact that elementary and secondary textbooks usually cost less than standard trade books.

During the course of the grant project an additional 11,924 volumes were added to the existing collection of 6021 cataloged volumes and 12,000 uncataloged volumes. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Collection now totals 29,945 volumes due to the strong acquisitions program undertaken during the course of the grant project.

PUBLICITY

The success of the project's attempts to acquire historical curriculum materials as gifts can be directly attributed to the amount of publicity given to the project. In addition to personal contacts made by the Project Director at national and state professional meetings, local newspaper and newsletter articles and national news releases have resulted in many contacts about the availability of the Curriculum Collection. Forty-eight education-related journals were sent news releases, many of which were published. Each article emphasized accessibility of the collection as well as the need for additional donations to the collection. Private donors from around the nation have responded to these articles. Project Director Nancy O'Brien will deliver a paper on "Preserving Our Educational Heritage: The Need to Establish Regional Historical Curriculum Collections" at the Fifth National Conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries in Cincinnati in April 1989. The focus of the paper is the work undertaken through this grant project and the need to continue the effort. This conference receives national attention and presentation of a paper on the project will provide excellent publicity.

Following are references to a selection of publicity notices about the grant project. Copies of the articles are available from the Project Director or through various libraries.

"Center for Curriculum Materials Established." EBSS NEWSLETTER 2(2): 1 (November 1987).

"Curriculum Materials Wanted." NASSP NEWSLEADER 36(3): 7 (November 1988).

"New Grant will Provide National Access to Library's Textbook Collection." FRIENDSCRIPT NEWSLETTER 9(4): 3 (Winter 1988).

"Request for Children's Books Brings Donations." FRIENDSCRIPT NEWSLETTER 10(2): 5 (Summer 1988).

"See Nancy Run--She's Chasing Every U.S. Textbook Since 1830." CHILDHOOD EDUCATION 65(2): 122 (Winter 1988).

"Textbook Collection Gets Federal Support." AERA/SIG ON TEXTBOOKS, TEXTBOOK PUBLISHING, AND SCHOOLS (October 1988), p. 3.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN STATISTICS 1987/1988

Following are interlibrary loan statistics of curriculum materials for July 1987 to July 1988. These figures are particularly interesting since they reflect a time prior to the grant project to a time when materials were just beginning to appear in the UIUC Online Catalog and the OCLC database.

MONTH & YEAR	LOAN TRANSACTIONS
July 1987	3
August 1987	0
September 1987	1
October 1987	2
November 1987	0
December 1987	2
January 1988	5
February 1988	3
March 1988	2
April 1988	1
May 1988	3
June 1988	4

Interlibrary loan transactions more than doubled in the second six months of the reporting period. Since the last half of the reporting period only included four months of actual data input from the grant project, the increase in interlibrary loan transactions since June 1988 should be quite significant. The steady increase in interlibrary loan transactions verifies the need for historical curriculum materials to be available on a national basis, not just in local collections.

EVALUATION

Based on statistics generated during the project, cataloging activities were most successful. It was estimated that 8,000 volumes would be cataloged during the course of the project. In fact 9,526 volumes were cataloged, added to the UIUC Online Catalog, the Illinois statewide library computer system, and the OCLC database. The average cost of cataloging per volume was \$14.90.

During the grant project 11,924 volumes were acquired through purchase or donation. Of these, 3,000 volumes were purchased at an average cost of \$7.33 per volume. The 8,924 volumes donated to the library were received in response to the publicity about the grant project that appeared in local and national publications.

Of the 3,568 titles cataloged for the project, 1,105 were new titles added to the OCLC database and 2,463 titles were modified records for items found on OCLC. The percentage of new titles added to OCLC (31%) compares very favorably to the findings of a recent article, "Cataloging of Curriculum Materials on OCLC: A Perspective," by Jack Kranz in CATALOGING & CLASSIFICATION QUARTERLY 8(2): 15-28 (1987/1988). In that study 89% of the 56 titles searched in OCLC were found. Only 11% were new titles. The differences in the published study and the project statistics reflect the fact that the project used a much larger sample and included materials dating back to the early 1800s. The Kranz study included selected titles published between 1950 and 1985. In addition, the project involved cataloging of numerous unique items such as bilingual Vietnamese textbooks and curriculum guides from small school districts.

POST GRANT ACTIVITIES

The overwhelming success of the grant project, particularly in soliciting donations of curriculum materials confirms the urgent need to preserve the record of educational history as presented in elementary and secondary textbooks. The number of private donors having treasured volumes from their own school days or that of their grandparents, but feeling that they could no longer preserve or house these materials was unexpected. It is clear that there is an untapped wealth of material in danger of destruction or loss unless this project continues. The publicity already generated by the grant project has resulted in sufficient momentum so that notices are still appearing in national publications and the UIUC Library is still being contacted about possible donation of curriculum materials. There is every intention to continue to accept these donations and to continue to seek funding to catalog these materials and make them accessible nationally and internationally through interlibrary loan. In the interim, cataloging of curriculum materials will

continue as part of the regular routine of one library professional who devotes 5% of her time to cataloging this material. It will not be possible to catalog large quantities of the collection until further funding or staffing is provided. Persistent attention to the cataloging, maintenance and enhancement of this collection will result however, in one of the premier collections in the United States. Based on availability to the public through interlibrary loan and site visits, the UIUC Curriculum Collection will be the most accessible collection of significance in the nation.

Funding from the Strengthening Research Library Resources Program (HEA II-C) provided the impetus to greatly expand services and enhance the resources of the UIUC Curriculum Collection. This work will continue, whether on a reduced scale due to lack of funding, or at a similar level with outside support. The need for the availability of this research material has been recognized and is receiving national attention. Generations of future educators, scholars and researchers will be able to utilize the outstanding collection of curriculum materials at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

APPENDIX

TITLE II-C STAFF
October 1987-December 1988

PROJECT DIRECTOR:	Nancy P. O'Brien
CATALOG LIBRARIAN:	Angela Mei
ASSISTANT CATALOG LIBRARIAN:	Kathleen Kaze
CLERK TYPIST:	Janice Johnson
GRADUATE ASSISTANTS:	Chia-yu Chong Tsui-chuan Lee